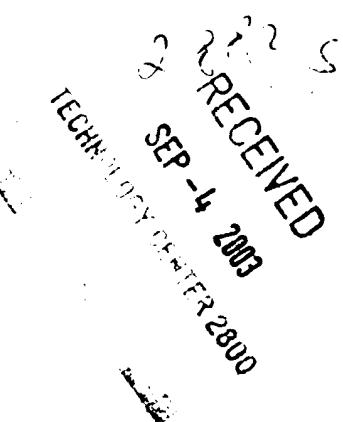


IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE



APPLICANT : Lars Erik Eskildsen et al.

SERIAL NO. : 10/008,370

TITLE : OPTICAL ATTENUATOR EMPLOYING A FUSION SPLICING

FILED : 12/06/01

EXAMINER : Michael H. Caley

GROUP ART : 2882

ATTY DOCKET: PH01-01-08

MAIL STOP FEE AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) AND AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions the Assistant Commissioner to grant a one (1) month extension of time, up to and including August 22, 2003, in which to respond to the Office Action dated April 22, 2003 in the above-identified application. The extension fee in the amount of \$55.00 may be charged to deposit account No. 50-1047. In addition, any deficiencies may be charged to deposit account No. 50-1047.

In response to the Office Action dated April 22, 2003, the period therefore having been extended by a Petition therefore and payment of the extension fee, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.